
Field Allocation Review Committee
July 17, 2012

The Field Allocation Review Committee, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Parks and Recreation Office Conference Room at 201 W. Gray Building C on the 17th day of July, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting 201 West Gray Street, 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel, Goth,
and Perry

City Officials

Present: Jeff Hill, Recreation Superintendent

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Goth made the motion and Commissioner Brockhaus seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel, Goth,
and Perry

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

OPENING PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF FOOTBALL
ACADEMY, INC.

Mickey Williams presented background information on himself and his organization. Years ago he asked the City of Norman if they would start a Flag Football League. The City did not want to, but they allowed him to start a program and play on the Colt and Pony Fields. He said they played for a number of years and then the Parks and Recreation Department hired Rick Davis and said they wanted to take over the league. When the fields were being developed on Robinson, Mr. Williams stated he was asked to be on the committee, and the fields were laid out according to National Flag Football League specs. Approximately eleven years ago the league was down to three teams and he requested to take it back over. When he took the league back, the City only gave him one field. The other three fields were being used by the

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Optimist Club for Flag and Tackle Football. He rebuilt the program to as many as 29 Adult teams on one field. After the 5th year he began requesting more fields each year. After the 10th year, he finally received one more field. His intentions were to have a church league, a high school league and a women's league. He was not able to start advertising for these leagues until he had more fields. He stated that even two fields are not enough for 29 teams. Last year when the City gave him the additional field, they took the Optimist Club off of the three fields, gave him one, and then gave the other two fields to Soccer who has no business being on the flag football fields. Mr. Williams stated he still continues to need the fields. He stated he talked to Mr. Gillis and was told they needed more fields for two tournaments. Mr. Williams stated he told them he was trying to get all four fields, and Mr. Gillis said soccer was trying to get two fields. Mr. Williams said he told them if he was able to get all four fields that we would put in an agreement that anyone could use the fields at anytime that football was not using them.

Mr. Williams said he still continues to request the fields, because he cannot grow his sport. He said the Athletic Director at Norman High and also the Athletic Director at Norman North have endorsed starting a High School Flag Football League. He has also talked to several churches who are interested in starting a league and there is interest in starting a women's league.

Mr. Williams said he was frustrated because he has a legitimate reason to have more fields and it keeps getting turned down, but last year he was given another field, but still cannot grow the sport. Soccer has all those fields, and they are fenced so no one else can use them, youth baseball has all those fields, but there are fences around it. Optimist has the fields out on south base with fences around them and nobody else can use them and he promises if he gets all four fields, he will not put fences around them, anyone can use them when they need to if it is not in conflict with his program. He is looking at what's fair, what's right and what's needed. He said giving him the four fields would be justified in all three categories. He is asking for a recommendation for all four fields so he can grow the sport. Mr. Williams said the City of Moore has contacted him and will give him 2 fields to use on the weekends.

ITEM 4, being:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Commissioner Goth asked Mr. Williams when he originally started the league before the City took it over. He stated 1974.

Chairman Brigham asked what the Pros of Cons of the current contract was. Mr. Williams stated the pros of the contract were that he was happy with the way things are on the field that he does have. He likes the facility, the lighting is good, and the parking is great. Mr. Brigham asked about how the soccer organization did in maintaining the fields this past season. Mr. Williams said it brings up another issue. He stated he has no idea how soccer would ever have priority on those fields over Optimist. He doesn't know the ins and outs of it, but in Oklahoma City they had a large complex up there he used a lot and the soccer association in Oklahoma City started working on getting those fields and it destroyed the league in Oklahoma City and it has made him real suspect. His experience shows him that they are predatory and they want as many fields as they can get wherever they can get them. He is not in agreement with their philosophy.

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Commissioner Goth again asked about how soccer did with the maintenance of the fields. Mr. Williams said the fields were maintained fine, but that brings up a big point with him for instance if he were to request to get a contract on Lions Park and agreed to maintain Lions Park would he get a contract because it seems like that is what soccer has done, they have offered to maintain the complex, therefore they have gotten two fields when he needs them.

Commissioner Goth stated that brings up the next question, would you be able to maintain your fields. Mr. Williams indicated that he could if he had to but that it was City property. Commissioner Goth asked if he would have the manpower and equipment. Mr. Williams stated he had purchased a 60 inch deck mower and would be able to maintain the fields.

Chairman Brigham asked Mr. Williams if his usage has increased since his last report to Park Board. Mr. Williams stated he was very confident that he would have at least the same number of teams he had last year. He said if he had the fields now he would be able to develop the additional leagues. He said soccer used the fields for practice, and at the times they were being used for practice, there was a least 6-8 of their fields empty and he does not understand why they feel like they need those fields when they have their fields sitting empty and they were only using them for practice. He feels that as a general philosophy, competition use of the fields should have priority over practice and football wants them for competition.

Commissioner Chappel asked Mr. Williams since he had stated he felt like 29 teams was too many for two fields, what he thought a good number was. Mr. Williams said he was talking about adults. They will do a lot more damage to the fields than kids will. Mr. Williams was asked when the fields were being used. Mr. Williams said 7, 8, 9 & 10 on Tuesday and Thursdays.

Commissioner Goth asked again about how many teams could he run on a field, Mr. Williams replied it all depends on the maintenance of the turf, it has been sort of thin. Ms. Goth asked how many teams in the current condition. Mr. Williams said 29 – 30 teams on those two fields for two nights. He said he has never had access to water. He needs to be able to water. Commissioner Chappel asked if someone else watered. Mr. Williams said it has never been watered that much. Mr. Williams said he has talked to the maintenance people and encouraged the committee to talk to the maintenance people and ask them who they would prefer to have the fields. Mr. Williams said he would request to sit down and with Jeff and Jud and whoever knows how much water should be put down on those fields and would be happy to do that.

Commissioner Brockhaus asked who used the fields on the other nights that football was not using them. Mr. Williams stated he does not use them. His intention would be for churches to play on Monday nights and the high schools to play on the weekend. Commissioner Brockhaus stated he was trying to get a feel for how much use could the fields take. Mr. Williams said it is a mystery to him also. Mr. Brockhaus asked if the contract was just to play certain nights. Mr. Williams said no.

Chairman Brigham asked if soccer or football either one ever used the 60 day clause to use the fields. Mr. Williams said no they never utilized it because it never presented itself last year. Mr. Williams said soccer did use the fields for one tournament and the extra field lines were confusing to the football players. About the most negative thing that happened last year was having to tell people that were practicing on the football fields to leave because games were scheduled. On a number of occasions he would have to go find the coach and tell

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them the City made the baseball fields available for them to practice. The coaches didn't pass the information on to the parents.

Chairman Brigham asked Mr. Williams if the contract comes back as it is, would he sign it. Mr. Williams said if it comes back that way, then he has no choice. His only other choice would be to move some of the activity out of Norman and he didn't want to do that.

ITEM 5, being:

CLOSING REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF FOOTBALL ACADEMY, INC.

Mr. Williams said he felt like he had expressed everything. He stated football runs a good program.

Commissioner Brockhaus asked if what he was hearing was he could use the two fields he has now for the men's league, but to expand, he would need the other fields? Mr. Williams said he doesn't dare try to expand his adult league right now because he would not have the space.

Chairman Brigham thanked Mr. Williams for his service to the community.

ITEM 6, being:

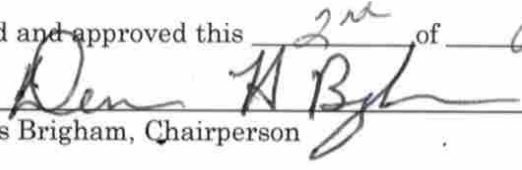
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Chappel made the motion and Commissioner Perry seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel, Goth, and Perry

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 2nd of August 2012


Dennis Brigham, Chairperson